Failure to achieve targets by Steel Plants

891. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that most of the Government owned steel plants in the country have failed to achieve their production target;

(b) if so, the details of performance of each steel plant during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to go in for modernisation of majority of the steel plants; and

(d) if not, how Government propose to increase the production capacity in these steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Under the Department of Steel two Public Sector Undertakings namely Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (VSP) and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) have their Steel Plants and in so far as fulfilment of production target is concerned, their performance during the last 3 years is as under:—

Production performance of Saleable Steel during the last three years is as follows:

VSP/RINL

	1995-96			1996-97			1997-98		
	Target	Actual	% Fulfill	Target	Actual	% Fulfill	Target	Actual	% Fulfill
Saleable Steel	2247	2136	96	2550	2136	84	2656	2250	85

Production performance of Saleable Steel by SAIL including its subsidiaries during the last three years is as follows:

SAIL

Unit'000" t

Plant	1995-96			1996-97			1997-98		
	Plan	Actual	%Ful.	Plan	Actual	%Ful.	Plan	Actual	%Ful.
BSP	3250	3495	108	3370	3582	106	3380	3524	104
DSP	1190	947	80	1350	1093	81	1370	4259	92
RSP	1190	1148	96	1300	1180	91	1240	1181	95
BSL	3220	3330	103	3280	3046	93	3310	2748	83
SAIL 4PL	8850	8920	101	9300	8902	96	9300	8712	94
ASP	175	187	107	180	201	112	180	154	86
SSP	75	48	64	80	132	166	120	177	147
SAIL MOU	9100	9155	101	9560	9235	97	9600	9043	94
IISCO	405	302	75	367	338	92	377	315	84
VISL	70	63	89	85	61	71	70	50	72
SAIL Group	9575	9520	99	10012	9634	96	10047	9409	94

(c) and (d) RINL/VSP with a capacity of 3.0 MT of liquid steel per annum was fully commissioned in August, 1992. As per the directions of Govt. the company has engaged a consultant to study the turnaround strategies and revival plan for long term viability of the company which includes the expansion of the plant to 4.0 million tonnes stage and its report is under consideration of the Govt.

In SAIL, modernisation work has been taken up in its 3 units viz. Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP), Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) and Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP).

Liberalisation package for mining sector

892. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering liberalisation package for mining sector empowering the state Governments to grant concessions for areas not compact or cotinuous in respect of minerals in part C of schedule 1 of the MMRD Act and to give more thrust to development activities rather than regulations/setting up of full time administrative tribunal for revision of cases and strengthening of provisions for curbing illegal mining;

(b) if so, the details of the reform package formulated/finalised/approved;

(c) the details regarding possible impact of the reform package; and

(d) the details of legislative changes proposed for Acts governing mining activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Central Government constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary, Ministry of Mines, Government of India with Mining Secretaries of State Governments of Orissa, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Assam and Himachal Pradesh, Secretary General, Federation of Indian Mineral Industries and Controller General, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as members. The terms of reference of the Committee inter-alia, included review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatible with the policy changes and to suggest steps to reduce delays in grant/renewal of prospecting licences/mining leases. The Committee was also to consider and suggest further delegation of power to the State Governments regarding grant/renewal of prospecting licences/mining leases and measures to be taken to prevent illegal mining. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government which, inter-alia include recommendations for delegation of powers to the State Governments to relax the requirement of mineral concessions being in compact and contiguous areas, shift in the balance of the Act and rules framed threunder from being regulatory to developmental in nature, introduction of measures for expediting disposal of revision cases and strengthening the penal provisions for curbing illegal mining. Further necessary action for amendment in the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, and Rules made thereunder has already been initiated.

Losses of Balco

893. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) has been running in loss;

(b) if so, the year since when the above company is running at loss; and

(c) the factors responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No Sir, Bharat Aluminium Company Limited has not incurred any losses since 1987-88.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.